

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OES-07 /085 W
-----107904 231836Z /43

R 231350Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4041
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS SOFIA 0133

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, BU
SUBJECT: FURTHER INFORMATION ON TEMPORARY POWER CUTBACKS

REF: SOFIA 0110

1. AT JAN 20 PRESS CONFERENCE MINISTER OF POWER NIKOLA TODORIEV GAVE EXPLANATION FOR ELECTRICITY CUTBACKS ORDERED JAN 19 (REFTEL). MAIN REASON GIVEN WAS THAT JAN 13 ACCIDENT AT MARITSA-IZTOK POWER GENERATING FACILITY LED TO A "FLUCTUATION OF THE PARAMETERS" CAUSING FAILURE OF FIVE MACHINES. REPAIR WORK IS PROGRESSING ON THE MACHINES, TWO OF WHICH ARE REPORTEDLY BACK IN OPERATION. THE MINISTER SAID THE SITUATION WOULD RETURN TO NORMAL BY JAN 25. HE FURTHER STATED THAT MAJOR ENERGY CONSUMERS LOST POWER ONLY FOR SOME 10-15 MINUTES, BUT IN PARTS OF THE COUNTRY POWER WAS OUT FOR TWO HOURS.

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2. IN ADDITION, TODORIEV SAID INSUFFICIENT RAINFALL DURING PAST THREE MONTHS CAUSED SOME HYDROELECTRIC STATIONS TO OPERATE AT LESS THAN FULL CAPACITY. HE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE TWO THERMAL ELECTRIC STATIONS AT VARNA AND MARITSA-IZTOK 3 WHICH WERE SCHEDULED FOR COMMISSIONING IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1977 ARE STILL NOT IN OPERATION.

3. COMMENT: POWER OUTAGES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN FAIRLY WIDESPREAD. DURING A VISIT TO PLOVDIV JAN 20, FOR EXAMPLE, EMBOFF FOUND POWER WAS OUT AT SEVERAL LOCATIONS IN THE TOWN. HOWEVER, FACTORIES AND PLANTS SEEMED TO BE IN NORMAL OPERATION.
GARTHOFF

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NNN

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